(b) if so, whether this would help in identifying and forecasting future demand of urban facilities and infrastructure so as to meet the demand; and

(c) whether Government are of the view that 40 per cent. of country's population is expected to be in urban centres by 2025 and there is a need to give priority to the needs of the urban poor and respond to their needs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Urban Development is a State subject and preparation of Master Plan for every urban centre is to be undertaken by the respective State Governments. In a National Level Conference on Urban Development Plan Formulation and Implementation (UDPFI). Guidelines organized by this Ministry earlier, the need for preparation of Master Plans for urban centres was emphasized to all the State Government representatives.

(b) In the Master Plan of a town, requirements of physical and social infrastructure are assessed and indicated on the basis of projected population for a perspective period of 20—25 years. This helps in identifying and forecasting future demands of urban facilities and infrastructure.

(c) As per "Census of India 1991: Population projections for India and States 1996—2016" published by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India and the Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections constituted by the Planning Commission, in August 1996, 33.79% of India's population is expected to be in urban centres by July 2016. This would necessitate due priority to the needs of the Urban Poor and response to their needs by the State Governments and local bodies.

Sale of DDA flats at discount

†583. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Grahakon ko akarshit karne ke liye 20 feesdi chhoot per flat bechega DDA", which appeared in Rashtriya Sahara, dated the 14th May, 2002;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the reasons why the remaining flats of DDA could not be sold in Narela;

(d) whether Government would take steps to bring improvement in quality of material to be used in construction of flats by DDA; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The DDA have reported that it had launched the 'Narela Housing Scheme-2002' for disposal of vacant DDA flats on 20% discount. This Scheme was open during the period 15.5.2002 to 14.6.2002 which was later extended to 28.6.2002. This 20% discount was given with the approval of the competent authority.

(c) The DDA have reported that for quite some time the disposal of flats in Narela was not on the expected lines chiefly on account of non-availability of water and electricity and lack of infrastructure and also because it is very far off from the business districts of South/Central Delhi. Further, it is relatively a new development area. Now, water and electricity is available there.

(d) and (e) The DDA have reported that the quality of the materials used in the construction of flats is regularly checked by the concerned field staff. Besides this, Quality Control Cell of DDA also check the quality of materials at random. If the materials failed to meet the required standard during testing, necessary corrective action is taken.

Construction of houses under Awas Yojana Schemes

584. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to construct fifty thousand dwelling units under the various Awas Yojana Schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether work of construction has already started and if so, when;